

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for producing extended-release tablets comprising the steps of:  
mixing arginine with a sustained release matrix; and  
compressing said mixture to form tablets.
  2. The method of claim 1, wherein said L-arginine is selected from the group consisting of L-arginine hydrochloride, pharmacologically acceptable arginine salts, and mixtures thereof.
  - 10 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said arginine comprises about 15% to about 60% by weight of the tablet.
  4. The method of claim 1, wherein said arginine is present in an amount sufficient to produce tablets in a range from about 150 mg to about 2000 mg of said L-arginine.
  5. The method of claim 1, wherein said active ingredient is present in an amount sufficient to produce tablets with about 750 mg of L-arginine.
  6. The method of claim 1, wherein said arginine is present in an amount sufficient to produce tablets with about 350 mg L-arginine.
  7. The method of claim 1, wherein said L-arginine and said sustained release matrix are dry mixed with a glidant and a filler.
  8. The method of claim 7, wherein said glidant is selected from the group consisting of colloidal silica, precipitated silica, and mixtures thereof.
  - 25 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said sustained release matrix is hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC).

10. The method of claim 1, wherein said tablet is coated with a coating, said coating being a cellulose ether-based coating alone or in combination with ethyl cellulose.

11. The method of claim 1, further including the step of mixing in an agent which enhances the bio-transformation of L-arginine into Nitric Oxide.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said agent is selected from the group consisting of a NOS agonist, an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, and an ACE inhibitor.

13. A composition comprised of:  
arginine; and  
a sustained release polymeric matrix.

14. The composition of claim 13, further including a nitrate,

15. The composition of claim 13, further including an Hmg-CoA reductase inhibitor.

16. An extended-release pharmaceutical tablet comprised of a sustained release matrix and arginine.

17. The tablet of claim 16, further including an agent which enhances the bio-transformation of arginine into Nitric Oxide.

18. The tablet of claim 17, wherein said agent is selected from the group consisting of a NOS agonist, a nitrate, an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, an ACE inhibitor, a nutraceutical.

19. The tablet of claim 18, wherein said arginine is about 20% to about 60% by weight of said tablet.

20. The tablet of claim 16, wherein said arginine is selected from the group consisting of L-arginine, L-arginine hydrochloride, pharmacologically acceptable arginine salts, and mixtures thereof.

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